

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### 1.—MUSK-SHREW (*SUNCUS CAERULEUS*) ATTACKING A BULL-FROG.

Referring to K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji's observations in respect of a Musk-shrew attacking a Bull-frog (*Journal*, Vol. 46, p. 180), I am inclined to believe that the Musk-rat, not being a rat, occasionally takes it into its head to add some juicy diet to its insect menu and the easiest prey is the frog. I have witnessed it attacking a Bull-frog of full size, the latter, true to the creed of passive resistance, making no attempt to escape.

80A, KURLA ROAD, ANDHERI.  
28th August, 1946.

V. M. VASU,  
*Advocate.*

### 2.—NESTING HABITS OF THE FLYING-SQUIRREL (*PETAURISTA PHILIPPENSIS*.)

Whilst felling an Ironwood tree on our estate in the Anamallai Hills last September, I noticed an adult flying-squirrel (*Petaurista philippensis*) glide away from a hole in the tree.

After the tree had fallen I examined it carefully and found the nest hole, which was about 60 feet up. The nest, which was about 5 feet long and a foot in diameter, filled a natural hollow in the tree and it had an entrance at each end. It was well lined with grass, moss, and a quantity of fur.

The nest was empty but a careful search revealed a baby flying-squirrel on the ground.

Its eyes had not yet opened though it was more than a foot long. As it was alive I took it home with me and fed it on well-watered milk by means of a piece of bicycle valve-rubber inserted into the end of an ordinary teat. It took to this readily and had about  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce every 3 hours.

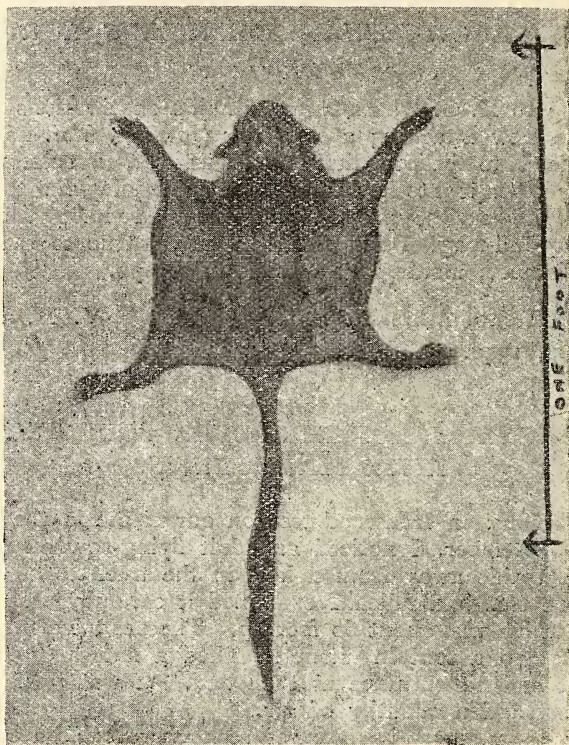
Unfortunately it caught a chill and died after I had had it a week; and even then its eyes had not opened.

I enclose a photograph of it which I thought might be of interest to you. The foot rule which is alongside gives you a fair idea of its size.

As can be seen from the photo its head is out of all proportion to the rest of its body and also the last 5 inches of its tail is curiously flattened, a peculiarity that I have noticed in one or two adult specimens. Another interesting thing was that the bony "yard-arms" which extend the skin, "wing flaps", from the front paws, had not yet developed; instead the "wing flaps" ended at the elbows.

When handled it would make a series of high whistling noises, ending with a squeak.

In colour it was not unlike an adult, except that its tail and feet were jet-black, and it also had a black band across its shoulders. The underparts were white and light-grey.



A young flying-squirrel.

I do not know whether the flying-squirrel undergoes any colour changes before it reaches the adult stage, but recently I was shewn a half-grown specimen which was a light fawn in colour all over, with no other markings at all.

HIGH WAVY ESTATE,  
CUMBUM P. O.,  
MADURA DISTRICT,  
S. INDIA.

A. F. HUTTON.

17th September, 1946.

[Little or nothing is known regarding the breeding habits of flying-squirrels generally, and Mr. Hutton's description of the nesting of *P. phillippensis* is a welcome addition to the meagre information available about the habits of this species. Being nocturnal in habit, it is more or less common knowledge that flying-squirrels spend the day in holes and other suitable retreats where they are safe from the attacks of most enemies. Eds.]